overconfidence can have serious consequences, but people with more confidence live happier than people who lack self-confidence.

The Belief Perseverance Phenomenon
belief perseverance: clinging to one’s initial conceptions after the basis on which they were formed has been discredited
we tend to ignore evidence that undermines our preconceived beliefs

The Perils and Powers of Intuition
intuition: an effortless, automatic feeling or thought, as contrasted with explicit, conscious reasoning
2-track mind; intuition and analytical judgement

The Effects of Framing
framing: the way an issue is posed: how an issue is framed can significantly affect decisions and judgements
saying that a surgery has a 10% failure rate sounds worse than 90% success rate
more people choose an option when it is default rather than opt-in

Language
language: our spoken, written, or signed words and the ways we combine them to communicate meaning

Language Structure

Phonemes
phoneme: in language, the smallest distinctive sound unit
linguists have identified 869 phonemes across 500 spoken languages
consontant phonemes carry more information than vowels
sign languages have phoneme-like building blocks
Chinese native signers learning American sign language sign with an “accent:

Morphemes
morpheme: in languages, the smallest word that carries meaning; may be a word or part of a word (such as a prefix)

Grammar
grammar: in language, a system of rules that enables us to communicate with and understand others
semantics: the set of rules by which we derive meaning from morphemes, words, and sentences in a given language; also, the study of meaning
syntax: the rules for combining words into grammatically sensible sentences in a given language
language is complexity built off of simplicity; ability to comprehend and communicate this complexity is what distinguishes human language capacity

Language Development
we learn many 60,000 words in between age 1 and high school graduation; an astonishing rate
we form sentences on the fly with near-perfect sentence

When Do We Learn Language?
at 4 months, babies can recognize speech sounds and read lips; beginning of receptive language (ability to comprehend speech)
at 7 months and beyond, babies can identify individual words
productive language (ability to produce words) occurs after receptive language
babbling stage: beginning at about 4 months, the stage of speech development in which the infant spontaneously various sounds
at first unrelated to the household language
at 10 months, babbling starts to exclude sounds outside of their native language
one-word stage: the stage in speech development, from about age 1 to 2, during which a child speaks mostly single words